

ASEPSIS AND ANTISEPSIS. By A. MAZET (Lyon). Paris, J. B. Baillière et fils, 1888.

The author, in a brochure of 92 pages, deals with the experiences of Tripier, in the old and strongly infected Hotel-Dieu at Lyons, in aseptic and antiseptic manipulation during the last six years. By asepsis is to be understood the complete sterilization of any substance or fluid; antisepsis is synonymous with the destruction of bacteria (microbicide or germicide). It is asserted that the only means of effectually securing sterilization is the use of heat. Even boiled water is not strictly germless, but a temperature of from 115-120° C. will destroy the last spore. Disinfection of the skin of the patient and the surgeon's hands, and the immediate coverings to the wound if the latter is already infected is accomplished by the usual antiseptic agents. But instruments, drains, suture and ligature material, the pieces of dressing, and water for irrigation of the wound can only be effectually sterilized by means of hot water. Sponges are replaced by cotton tampons wrapped with gauze.

For sterilizing dressing materials, the gas stove of Chamberland is used. Instruments are sterilized in a hot air bath. Water is heated in a condenser under pressure, after having been passed through a Chamberland's filter, to a temperature of 120° C. and taken from the same as needed for use.

Tripier has used the above methods with the greatest possible satisfaction. Its applicability to the uses of large hospitals, and in them its simplicity are alike undeniable. For use in small hospitals or in private practice, the necessity for a special sterilizing condenser, etc., renders the system open to the objection of being complicated. Tripier's observation that antisepsis without asepsis is "only a bait, which may lead to cruel delusions" is a trite one.

GEORGE R. FOWLER.

ELECTRICITY IN THE DISEASES OF WOMEN, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE APPLICATION OF STRONG CURRENTS. By G. BETTON MASSEY, M.D., Physician to the Nervous Department of Howard Hospital; Late Electro-Therapeutist to the Philadelphia Orthopedic Hospital and Infirmary for Nervous Diseases, etc. Philadelphia and London: F. A. Davis, publisher, 1889. 12 mo, pp. 210.

The application of electricity to gynecological work is so recent an innovation that a comprehensive treatise on the subject could hardly be produced at the present time. That his work should be considered

an attempt so ambitious, the author deprecates. Nevertheless, the need of a book in which the present status of this line of work is considered is felt by many, and by such this brief treatise will be warmly welcomed. Beginning with a concise presentation of the laws of electricity, together with a description of the electrical apparatus necessary for the application of this agent to the treatment of certain diseases peculiar to women, he then considers in detail the applications of the electrical current in gynecology, simplifying the subject so that it may be readily appreciated by the average practitioner who has not made a special study of medical electricity. His statements are moderate in tone and his published cases do not invariably present the best results. It certainly seems to be a fair and clear statement of the subject and while perhaps it should not be adopted as an infallible guide in all cases, the book may be an important help to the work not only of specialists in diseases of women and in electricity, but also in the practice of the large number of general practitioners who desire to use the latter agent in the former class of cases.

ELECTRICITY AND THE METHODS OF ITS EMPLOYMENT IN REMOVING SUPERFLUOUS HAIR AND OTHER FACIAL BLEMISHES. By PLYM. S. HAYES, A.M., M.D., Late Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology, Womens Medical College; Professor of Gynecology and of Electro-Therapeutics, Chicago Polyclinic, etc., etc., Chicago, W. T. Keener, 1889, 12 mo., pp. 128.

Electrolysis in the removal of superfluous hair is a cosmetic operation which has achieved an unquestioned position in surgery. This little book, like the foregoing, is a presentation of the subject in language unobscured by technicalities and adapted to the purposes of the general practitioner. The author devotes a chapter each to the histology of the skin and hair and to the necessary apparatus. In a third chapter he details fully the operative procedures. Various other facial blemishes, such as naevus, verucca, etc., receive attention in a fourth chapter, which closes the monograph. The book is in convenient shape for the pocket, and, with its large, clear type, is well adapted for reading in the interstitial leisure moments of pressing practice.

THE PSYCHIC LIFE OF MICRO ORGANISMS. A STUDY IN EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY. By ALFRED BINET. Translated from the French by THOMAS McCORMACK, with a preface by the author written especially for the American edition, Chicago; the Open Court Publishing Company, 1889, 12 mo. pp. 120.